

WISCONSIN'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP SKILL STANDARDS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

To the Teacher. Although leadership is defined in many different ways, we believe that every student has the potential to acquire leadership skills, given enough time and the appropriate circumstances. The youth leadership skill standards in this portfolio provide an important foundation for nurturing youth leadership efforts in a variety of ways.

The portfolio is organized into six categories of leadership skills, each with an identified set of numbered 'essential' skills or competencies and a series of suggested applications from which to choose. Together these competencies and applications indicate mastery of skill standards. In most sections, students are expected to complete 90% of the essential skills at proficiency level 2 or 3. The directions for each section indicate the number of (1) 'essential' skill standards and (2) creative applications students are expected to make. You and your student may negotiate other applications for a specific category to fit their learning goals and your classroom situation. At the end of the year teachers issue students a certificate or wallet card that shows their accomplishments that year. Upon completion a certificate of mastery will be awarded.

To the Student. The leadership skill standards in this portfolio provide options you can choose from as you *explore possibilities, meet new challenges, and seek to strengthen your leadership building efforts* in all aspects of your school experience and beyond.

To help you keep a record of your progress, the portfolio is organized into six skill categories, each emphasizing different leadership skill standards. Each section has some skills you are expected to complete. But each section also contains a series of applications that provide options from which to choose as you think about your own learning goals and suggestions from your teacher/mentor.

Do not feel that you must complete all of the sections in one year. You may want to select one area to work on, then move on to another area of interest or priority. Or you could choose to work on 1-2 skill standards in each section of the portfolio. Each year you will receive a certificate or wallet card showing your accomplishments that year. A certificate of mastery is awarded when you have finished the program.

The focus in:

Section One is self-management. Start here to set personal leadership learning goals and make plans for how to reach them.

Section Two is communication and critical-creative thinking, including critical listening, reading, speaking, writing, and observation skills in a variety of settings.

Section Three is media and technology skills.

Section Four is interpersonal, conflict management, and democratic organizational and small group skills.

Section Five is practicing ethical standards and behaviors.

Section Six is democratic discussion and problem-solving and reasoned action skills.

Copyright Pending: Preliminary draft prepared for publication in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction *Planning Curriculum for Family and Consumer Education* (Spring 2003) by Sharon Strom in conjunction with the Family and Consumer Education Guide Workgroup and the UW-Madison, Education and Work Leadership Program, CTSO Action Research Team. The new guide replaces the *Guide to Curriculum Planning in Home Economics* (1987). For more information, contact Sharon Strom, Consultant, 608/267-9088 or sharon.strom@dpi.state.wi.us. References available upon request. Last updated November 2002.